



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

April 20, 2005

RE: UNITED STATES v. JASON WASHINGTON

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today the conviction of Jason Washington, age 36, of Niagara Falls, New York of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846, carrying a maximum penalty of twenty (20) years imprisonment, a fine of \$1,000,000.00, or both, following a jury trial of five days.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Thomas S. Duszkievich and Mary Clare Kane who handled the trial, stated that the defendant conspired with a number of other individuals from Niagara Falls, New York to purchase cocaine from drug suppliers in Rochester and New York City between 1994 and 2000. The federal investigation utilized four wiretaps, including one in New York City. The overall case resulted in the arrests and convictions of more than 60 people from the Niagara Falls, Buffalo and Rochester, New York areas.

The conviction was the culmination of a joint investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Peter Ahearn, Special Agent In Charge; the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration under the direction of Mark T. Peterson, Resident Agent In charge; the Niagara Falls Police Department under the direction of John Chella, Superintendent, and the Rochester Police Department under the direction of Robert Duffy, Chief of Police.

Sentencing is scheduled for August 18, 2005, in front of the Honorable William M. Skretny, United States District Judge.

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